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## Families react to decision to delay March Break

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario government's recent decision to postpone March Break for all students and teachers across the province has received a mixed response from families throughout Haliburton County.

Last Thursday [Feb. 11], Ontario's education minister Stephen Lecce said he was making the "difficult decision" to delay March Break until the week of April 12.

"This decision was made on advice from public health officials, including the province's chief medical officer of health Dr. David Williams. At this time, it is critical that we continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, staff and their families so we can ensure the safe return to in-person learning," Lecce said. "Postponing March Break, not cancelling it, is an important way that schools can help to limit community transmission. We recognize that congregation is a key driver of the spread of COVID-19 – something we realized over the winter break, and we will not take that risk again with your child, with our staff and with Ontario families."

Lecce reiterated that the key driver behind the decision was ensuring public safety at a time when the province's

see SOME page 2



### Outdoor fun

Siblings Neve Keeley, nine, and Connor Keeley, play the game, Bee Ball with cousin Pearl McBride, seven, while spending a few hours on Thursday, Feb. 11 at Head Lake Park. Before their attempt at solving the game, which challenged them to move the ball from one spot to another inside the contained "hive," the trio of children from the same household went skating at the outdoor rink located close to the Haliburton library. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Dysart approves 2021 budget with 1.16 per cent tax increase

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

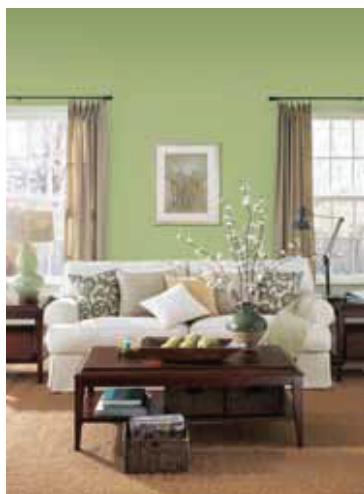
Following several months of discussion, Dysart et al council officially approved its 2021 budget on Friday morning [Feb. 12].

In what was a third draft of the docu-

ment, councillors settled on implementing a 1.16 per cent tax levy increase to the municipal portion of homeowners' 2021 property tax bill. According to Barbara Swannell, the township's treasurer, that will equate to an additional \$3.41 per \$100,000 of assessment for residential property owners.

While the same levy increase will be applied to commercial and industrial units, the dollar increase will be a little higher. Taxes on industrial properties will go up \$5.86 per \$100,000 of assessment in 2021, while commercial properties will see an increase of \$5.06 per \$100,000 of

see MAYOR page 3



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# Haliburton County to post shoreline FAQs for public

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

The County of Haliburton will create and post answers to frequently asked questions regarding a shoreline preservation bylaw, to be housed on the county's website.

As previously reported, during a Jan. 27 meeting, county council voted to discontinue the in-house process that had been in place surrounding the creation of a shoreline preservation bylaw, and issue a request for proposals for a consulting firm to conduct scientific reviews, public consultation, and then produce a draft bylaw. That decision came after widespread public criticism that the draft bylaw that been up for public review was too restrictive and difficult to understand.

While it will take months for a firm to be hired and then complete its work, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said during a Feb. 10 online meeting that she would at least like to see the county proceed with creating a sort of one-page, FAQ document with answers to some frequently asked questions. There has been some suggestion in the community the draft bylaw would prevent residents from cutting their lawns, or trim their hedges, and Moffatt said it should be simple enough for the county to create a document to put those kinds of concerns to rest.

"I am going to circle back again to try to find a way to alleviate the concerns the public has," Moffatt said. "Just because the emails have stopped for the time being, doesn't mean the questions have gone away. So I want to ask again about a FAQ. I don't understand why we can't do our own work toward alleviating some questions and concerns on some simpler issues, such as yes, you can



mow your lawn, and yes, you can prune your trees, and no, if you're planning to rebuild your cottage and it's within the 30 metres (a proposed setback distance for site alternation in the previous draft bylaw), you don't have to move it behind the proposed 30 metres."

Moffatt said providing such a document could help streamline the public consultation process, since many such concerns could be alleviated.

"I will bend to the will of council, obviously, but I find it incomprehensible why we can't just simply put together a little, quick FAQ to give the public the answers to some of the questions, the most common questions that we're being asked," Moffatt said.

"I've been harping on this for some time now, and it just sounds continually like, well, we can and we could and we might," Moffatt continued. "OK, when? The public still has questions and we have, thus far, failed to

answer most of them."

"I don't think we failed to answer, I think we failed to communicate," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts. "... We need to get on top of the information. We need to be the source."

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she agreed with Moffatt.

"I think we're making something bigger than it has to be," Schell said. "I think we obviously need to let the consultant, when we get one, do their thing, but in the interim, there's no reason why the county can't provide just a simple FAQ on the website, to the questions that were asked repeatedly in those hundreds of emails that we received. I congratulate Councillor Moffatt for continually pushing on this, because it's important stuff."

Minden Hills Brent Devolin said he thought the online environment necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic provided opportunities and had also led to the volume of feedback that councillors had received on the draft shoreline bylaw.

"I think a by-product of COVID, with YouTube, is, we're in a changing landscape, and I think there's a mechanism there that's allowed the public to get engaged that never did before. We can use that constructively. But, that's why ... I think if COVID hadn't happened, the onslaught of feedback that we've got wouldn't be of the scale that it is."

"As I've said since 2014, I would like to see connectivity and video-streaming at all levels of government with a video data bank, become a permanent legacy," Devolin added.

Moffatt eventually tabled a motion saying she'd like to see a FAQ created and posted publicly on the county website as soon as possible, with that motion approved by council.

## Some parents feel students, teachers deserve time off next month

from page 1

COVID-19 caseload is at a months-long low. Health officials noted there were 1,076 new cases on Friday [Feb. 12], and 5,380 new cases across the whole of last week. This differs greatly from the situation we were in a little more than a month ago when, between Jan. 4 and 8 there were 17,432 new cases, with a daily high of 4,249 on Jan. 8.

Minden resident Krysta Neave feels the decision to postpone March Break is a mistake. She has two children currently participating in in-class learning – one in Grade 12 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and the other in Grade 8 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

She feels both students and staff deserve a break following a hectic schedule since school started up again, initially virtually and later in person, back in January.

"I personally think moving the March Break is not a good idea. These kids have had so much change in the last year, that more change could disrupt their lives more. Teachers also need this break," Neave said. "My youngest has been in-class learning, and also did a couple of weeks of online learning right after Christmas, so he could use this break to give him a bit of a rest. He isn't happy about it being taken away from him."

Haliburton resident Sherri Barry feels the same way.

Her son has been attending class in-person at Stuart Baker Elementary School since September. While she admits he, as a Grade 1 student, likely won't be impacted by the delay, Barry feels thousands of others will.

"I feel like the kids really do deserve a break from school. Even if we had to have the break in our own house [and not going out], it would still be a break," Barry said. "The kids and teachers have been working so

hard to follow the new rules and having to switch back and forth from in-class to online. I'm sure a lot of people will [be affected by this]."

One of the main concerns provincial officials have right now surrounds the new variants of the virus that are prevalent in parts of Ontario, Lecce said. He admitted the increased presence of these variants was a key factor in Thursday's decision, as was a desire to avoid the kind of spikes we saw case-wise following the winter break.

"We want Canadians to stay put in their communities, and not take the risk given the obvious challenge of these new variants imposing difficulty within our communities and our health care system," Lecce said. "We recognize that congregation is a key driver of the spread of COVID-19, something we realized over the winter break, and we will not take that risk again with your child, with our staff and with Ontario families."

Bethany Houghton, who lives in Haliburton, commended the decision, expressing her belief that the delay would actually benefit students.

"The weather should be better for outdoor activities, which is safer for spread than indoors. We will still get our break, just later than originally intended," Houghton said. "Hopefully [the delay] will also provide time to get a few more vaccinations given to at-risk people."

While Jennifer Jowell said she understands why the decision was made, having her child home on break a month later than expected is likely to cause a major problem for her.

"They've rescheduled March Break for when I'm scheduled to write my university exams in April. I'm going to have to balance writing my exams with a child at home who doesn't understand that when I'm sitting for a three to six hour exam that needs my full attention, that means he really can't disturb me for three to six hours," Jowell said. "It wasn't easy last year, and I'm not looking forward to doing it this year either."

One of the other concerns noted was parents who had booked time off work in March to take care of their children likely now won't have the ability to reschedule or book more time off in April. Lecce didn't address that particular issue during Thursday's press conference.

He did, however, state that the decision had been made following extensive consultation with all Ontario teachers' unions, trustee associations and principal councils, noting their feedback was appreciated.

Immediately following the decision, Ontario's four teachers' associations were unanimous in voicing their opposition to the delay.

"These are unprecedented times, and this is a much-needed break for students, teachers, education workers, and families who have been under tremendous pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," a press release sent out by the unions reads. "The government's decision to postpone March Break does not take into consideration the mental health and well-being of those involved."

The unions rejected Lecce's claims that this decision was being driven out of fear of COVID-19 cases escalating once again following another break, saying that any concerns related to travel and gatherings should be addressed via other means.

By postponing March Break, the unions say the provincial government is continuing a pattern of ignoring the views of frontline workers most affected by the decision.

"This decision to postpone, despite unanimous opposition from unions representing educators and other stakeholders in the sector, including all school board associations and the Ontario Principals' Council, is another example of this government ignoring experts and making decisions that are reckless and baseless," the release reads.

"Teachers and educators have gone to extraordinary lengths to teach and support students every day since the start of the school year. Their efforts should be applauded, not diminished."

While much of the local concern surrounded students and teachers, Judy Hobbs Neimann pointed to another sector that would be severely impacted by this decision.

"I am concerned about our local ski hill. They have already been closed for most of the winter, and now March Break business has been taken away from them," Hobbs Neimann said. "I doubt there will be skiing in mid-April."

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride has been closed since the onset of the second provincial lockdown on Dec. 26. Chris Bishop, owner of Sir Sam's, estimates he's lost around \$500,000 in revenue since then.

The Eagle Lake business will reopen on Feb. 17, and will be extending their season into April to make up for some of the lost days.

"Even if we go into grey zone again, we will be able to keep our lifts operating, chalet access to washrooms and takeaway food service," Bishop said. "As before the lockdown, all opening criteria will apply regarding mandatory online reservations, chalet and food access and following all COVID-19 safety protocols."

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# Dysart delays review of township's ward boundary system

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A majority of Dysart et al council felt this was an inopportune time to get into a thorough review of the municipality's ward boundaries, that despite one councillor's claim that the current divisions have "glaring issues."

Township clerk Mallory Bishop brought a report on the issue to council on Feb. 9. She stated any review process would take between six months to a year to complete, and would require extensive input from the community.

The current borders were drawn up following the original amalgamation of Dysart, according to Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy. The issue was last considered back in 2015, when Dysart's previous council decided against launching a review.

Despite being such an important matter, Bishop informed council there was nothing within the Municipal Act guiding when a municipality should explore the possibility of changing its ward boundaries, noting it was entirely at the discretion of the sitting council.

Most members felt, with the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, that this particular discussion should be delayed.

"We should take a look at this once life starts to settle back down to something even close to normal," Kennedy said.

Mayor Andrea Roberts noted that if council were to hold off now, the debate likely would not take place during this current term. The next municipal election is slated for Oct. 24, 2022.

Even so, she agreed that, given the present circumstances, it would be prudent of council to leave this issue

alone.

"It's a big undertaking, and we have an awful lot on our plate right now and COVID-19 is making everything that much harder and that much more stressful," Roberts said. "Unless we had a glaring issue, I wouldn't suggest this is something we would make as a priority right now."

Ward 4 Coun. John Smith didn't share that opinion.

He pointed towards the statistics provided by Bishop, which highlighted a huge discrepancy in voter population between the township's five wards, as evidence that Dysart does in fact have a glaring issue that he feels should be immediately rectified. Wards 2 and 4 alone make up around 55 per cent of the total voter count across Dysart, based on data the township collected during the last municipal election.

During that vote, Ward 1 had 1,608 registered voters; Ward 2 had 3,886; Ward 3 had 1,873; Ward 4 had 3,522; and Ward 5 had 2,637.

Bishop's report noted that effective representation, as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada, states that population should not be the only factor in determining boundaries and that other factors such as natural geography, community history, community interests and minority representation should also be taken into consideration.

While Smith acknowledged that point, he argued a ruling put in place by the Supreme Court in 1991 should supersede it.

"The Supreme Court did emphasize [during that ruling] the importance of the first priority, which is relative parity of voting power," Smith said. "A system that dilutes one citizen's vote unduly as compared to another citizen's vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation for citizens who vote."

He added, "They can never be equal – people die, and people move, but Elections Canada took that ruling from the Supreme Court and, at the time, concluded that population count from district to district should never vary by more than 25 per cent... Four out of our five wards are more than 25 per cent variance to the average of around 2,700 residents per ward."

"It seems to me that kicking this can down the road is just perpetuating a problem that hasn't just existed here for a year or two, this is a problem that has existed [dating back to at least 2006]. We have a long-term problem here. Doing nothing is just not acceptable... If we're going to be living by the rules of democracy, representation by population and so forth, we need to act on this," Smith concluded.

Ward 2 Coun. Larry Clarke suggested it might be worth holding off on this discussion until Dysart receives information from the federal 2021 census, set to take place later this year.

Kennedy feels there's another factor that needs to be considered before Dysart even thinks about a review.

"The other elephant in the room here is county council. They have to determine whether they're going to move forward with amalgamation," Kennedy said. "You may only have one vote here in Dysart if that goes through."

Council opted to simply receive the report as information, essentially delaying any review.

## Mayor Roberts 'proud' of 2021 budget

from page 1

assessment.

According to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation [MPAC], the organization tasked with carrying out property assessments across Ontario, the typical residential property in Dysart was assessed at approximately \$193,000 in 2016. Using these totals, the typical ratepayer will see an increase of \$6.58 on the municipal portion of their 2021 tax bill.

Taking a look at the final document, Dysart is slated to spend just under \$17.2 million over the next year.

Much of the debate on Friday centred around how much money Dysart would place into its reserves. Carrying a surplus of \$545,660 from last year's budget, township staff recommended council allot \$300,000 towards reserve funds to help cover unexpected costs with wash-outs, brushing, snowplowing and sanding/salting.

Ward 4 Coun. John Smith didn't like that idea, instead suggesting the municipality take the bulk of those funds, around \$225,000 and redistribute them to another reserve fund with the idea the money will be used to fund various road projects in 2021. Rob Camelon, Dysart's direc-

tor of public works, noted the municipality had an extensive backlog in its ditching and brushing programs that would require attention soon.

It was Smith's hope that the additional \$225,000 would help to complete prep work on roads slated for paving over the next few years.

Following the budget's unanimous passing, mayor Andrea Roberts commended staff and council for a job well done in managing to tackle several key issues this year, while keeping tax increases to a minimum.

"I feel we're really, really making progress here in Dysart. I am very proud of this budget today," Roberts said. "This is the most important thing that we do... and staff, and council, have done a good job balancing priorities [this year]."

## Haliburton County reopens in Orange-Restrict level

As of Feb. 16 at 12:01 a.m., more businesses can reopen in Haliburton County, and small social gatherings are allowed once again after the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit moved from provincial lockdown measures that included a stay-at-home order, to the Orange-Restrict category of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework.

The move to the Orange COVID-19 level means local restaurants and bars can reopen for in-person dining as well as continue to offer take-out, pick-up and delivery; worship services, weddings and funerals can resume; gyms and fitness clubs, in-person shopping, personal care services and movie theatres and performing arts centres can reopen. Small social gatherings can once again happen in private homes, backyards and parks with people from different households, with up to 10 people gathered indoors, and up to 25 people outdoors. Masks must be worn and people from different households must stay two metres apart.

- Staff



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# New office space coming to site on County Road 21

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council has signed off on the development of a new office building on the corner of County Road 21 and Nimigon Lane – right next door to Tim Hortons.

During a public meeting held on Jan. 26, the community's elected officials voted unanimously in favour of a proposal brought forth by Andria Cowan Molyneaux, who sought approval to build a new space for her business ACM Designs.

Currently located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton, Cowan is looking to expand her firm and feels a new location just up the road will help to foster that growth.

"This is a big step for me as a small business owner," said Cowan, who launched ACM Designs in 2012. "... We are growing considerably. There just isn't room for us to grow, with the staff we already have [in our current location]."

Kris Orsan, Dysart's senior planner, informed council that, for the project to go ahead, the land in question would need to be rezoned. At present the land is listed as suburban residential, while the application seeks to amend it to highway commercial.

The application included a list of permitted uses for the site – bank, business office, clinic, home office, personal service shop and professional office. Orsan felt this clarity was especially important, given that Dysart council had turned down a previous proposal that would



The parcel of vacant land on County Road 21 will soon house a new office building. The facility will serve as the new home for local business ACM Designs.

have brought a fast food restaurant to the site.

The property in question, while presently zoned residential, is ripe for change, Orsan explained.

"Our official plan policy framework, based upon direction from provincial policy and the county's official plan, helps us to direct long-term land use in the community," Orsan said. "The property is designated as commercial within the municipal official plan, therefore the plan [to encourage] future growth is for the land [to be used for] commercial use."

Kathy Prymak is one of eight area residents who openly opposes the potential development.

Having purchased a property on County Road 21 last November, Prymak said she did her due diligence prior to buying and was surprised to learn that her new home could soon be joined by more commercial space.

"One of the things I did before purchas-

ing the lot was check all the zoning in the area to make sure there would be no more commercial [sites built] and that the area would remain residential," Prymak said. "It was very disheartening for me to find out this was even in the works... The purpose of me purchasing up here was to have outdoor and nature all around me. I had decided, at the time, that I could deal with having one commercial property across the street [Tim Hortons]. Now seeing there's going to be another added, I have to question if there's going to be even more added down the road."

Mayor Andrea Roberts noted that the land in question had been included in the municipality's official plan with a view to being zoned commercial "for as long as I've been on council." Roberts has served on council since 2006.

Karen Warren built her "dream home" along County Road 21 in 2011. At the time, she was aware that one parcel of land across the road was slated for com-

mercial development, but pushed ahead anyway. Now, she feels a second commercial presence will only serve to diminish property values in the area.

"We built our retirement home, retired here and commercial business is a problem for us. The price we paid to build the home, it's probably not worth [now] what it cost to build it," Warren said.

She brought up concerns related to lighting, asking Cowan Molyneaux what plans she had for the site. Warren said she is able to walk through her house without turning the lights on during the night, such is the brightness of the lights emanating from the Tim Hortons signage across the road.

"It is not my intention in any way, shape or form to overstimulate that location with lighting," Cowan Molyneaux responded. "I don't want to upset you and keep you up at night and will figure out a way to balance it all."

Responding to some concerns leveled her way by those in opposition that she was simply a developer with no ties to the community, Cowan Molyneaux made a point to say she was raised in Haliburton.

"I'm not a developer. I grew up here. I live here. I live right in town, and understand some of the challenges of living in town," Cowan Molyneaux said. "Something that's important to me as a person, is that we at ACM Designs are good citizens. That spirit will continue into the build process."

She added, "I care very much about our county. We try to support any kind of community initiative, and try to lead by example as well. This development will be no different."

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## LTC coalition passes declaration to 'fix' long-term care in Canada

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The percentage of long-term care COVID-19 deaths in Canada is the highest in the world, Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition, told a group of around 50 Haliburton area residents earlier this month.

Speaking during a town hall forum hosted by the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition on Feb. 1, Mehra said statistics coming out of Canada's retirement and nursing homes makes for grim reading.

As of Feb. 12, there have been 21,088 COVID-19 related deaths nationwide. A recent CBC report states that around 70 per cent of coronavirus deaths in Canada have been long-term care residents.

In doing the rough math, that means more than 14,750 of our seniors have died since the onset of the pandemic last March.

"We know there have been problems with the long-term care system for years. COVID-19 has really shed a tragic light on the crisis and the issues across our community, across our province and throughout Canada," said Bonnie Roe, co-chair of the local LTC coalition.

She joined forces with Mike Perry, a local lawyer, in establishing the coalition last May. We told the duo's story in the Jan. 26 edition of the *Echo*. In essence, the pair hope to inspire systemic change to the country's long-term care system.

The coalition has established a list of six core priorities it intends to chip away at

over the coming months. Right at the top of the list is advocating for the inclusion of long-term care to the Canada Health Act, a move that Perry says will completely change the way the sector operates.

"We need to fix the system. When you think about it, long-term care is considered to be a part of general healthcare. So, really, it should be under the Canada Health Act. Doing that does two things – it makes funding exclusively public, and it also provides national standards. Enforceable national standards," Perry said.

The group also wants to increase staffing to ensure all residents receive at least four hours per day of direct care; reinstate annual resident quality inspections of all long-term care homes, with consistency in enforcement when inspections yield rule violations; explore new models of care; change the culture of long-term care to be more attentive to the value of elders; and stop for-profit companies from opening new nursing homes in Ontario.

During the meeting on Feb. 1, the 50 residents in virtual attendance voted unanimously to support a motion lobbying for those fixes to be implemented.

It was a moving moment for Perry, whose late mother Mary was a resident of a nursing home in Lindsay.

"This is about how we as a society value and care for our elders. We want local voices to be part of the solution province-wide and to make sure we support our front-line workers while working to fix things," Perry said. "With so many people coming together and on the same page, there really is room to keep working with some hope."

For more information on the coalition, visit [www.ltcneedsyou.ca](http://www.ltcneedsyou.ca).



# Lockdown over, but risk not diminished: MOH

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

*The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually Feb. 10.*

As of Feb. 16, Ontario's stay-at-home orders will be lifted and public health unit regions will move back into Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework, under green, yellow, orange, red or grey colour codes that each have different levels of public health restrictions.

"That's, I think, a hopeful sign but I do want to say now, and I'll say it again, and again, and again, that this is a change in approach to control the virus, provincially, but it does not mean in any way that the risk out there is diminished," said Dr. Ian Gemmill, HKPRDHU acting medical officer of health. "Even though, for example, a stay-at-home order is not in place, I am still strongly encouraging people to stay at home unless they have a reason not to be there, so that means things like getting groceries, and I guess now, probably hair salons will be open, so that's a reason but I'm asking people to go from home, to their appointment, and home again, so that we're not doing anything to increase the transmission of this virus until such time as we're able to get vaccines into arms which is still weeks away."

Gemmill said the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge public health unit was expecting to be designated in the orange section of the colour-coding system. That was confirmed on Friday [Feb. 12].

Gemmill said the region had seen a small uptick in cases, which he hoped would not continue to increase as the lockdown measures were relaxed, and said staying at home was the "prudent" thing to do despite the order being lifted.

"The change in the emergency order and the change in the stay-at-home order, do not change the virus out there, they do not change the epidemiology, they do not change the risk," he said.

Informal social gatherings and big family gatherings were to be avoided, said Gemmill, noting the public health unit was currently dealing with one large family outbreak as a result of a birthday party. He advised ski hills should be used by local residents to the area as opposed to "people travelling all over the province," and strongly discouraged sports events such as hockey, which he said he would not like to have happen even if it's allowed.

"I am really pleading with people, even though it is no longer a legal requirement to stay at home, I'm asking that people continue to behave this way, because this is the only way we're going to keep this

virus in check until we can get vaccine in arms over the next couple of months or so," he said. "Let's not blow this by jumping the gun, thinking that just because the restrictions are relaxed, everything's 100 per cent now, it's not. It's absolutely not. And I am very worried that we might have, if people don't respect what we call advice now, rather than requirements, that we may have more cases in the next few weeks."

He reiterated numerous times during last week's press conference that his "strong advice," is to not gather, and not travel.

"I want to say really strongly to our population that 99 per cent of our population is still susceptible," he said. "Almost 99 per cent of our population has not had this infection, and that means that if they're exposed, they're susceptible, and they're quite likely to become ill."

## Variant reported in health unit region

At the Feb. 10 media briefing, Gemmill said there has, as of Feb. 9, been one documented instance in the health unit's region – in Northumberland County – in which a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a resident of Port Hope was discovered to be a variant, though which variant has not, at press time, been confirmed. The person affected is in isolation and contacts have all been quarantined.

Three COVID-19 variants of concern – one first identified in the United Kingdom in Nov. 2020, a South African variant identified in Dec. 2020 and a variant first detected in Brazilian travellers in Japan in Jan. 2021 – two which are known to be spreading in Canada, have been monitored over the past few months, due in part to their being highly transmissible.

Gemmill said though there has been one case of the variant being detected locally, there will be more, noting the variants of concern are likely to become the predominant strains.

"Pretty much inevitable, these variants are going to be more and more prevalent as time goes on, as you've heard," he said. "The fact that we've had one, I'm not really surprised."

In a press release, Gemmill said the identification of the variant in the community means that it is more important than ever that residents continue to be vigilant and follow the public health measures to help stop the spread of the virus.

## Vaccine priority continues to be long-term care residents

Residents at Extendicare, Highland

Wood and Hyland Crest long-term care homes have at this point received their first of two vaccines, the second which can be administered no earlier than the first week of March to ensure length of time between doses and efficacy. Gemmill was asked if, when more vaccines are available in the area, long-term care residents would receive their second dose or if healthcare workers would receive their first dose.

"The only way we are going to control these infections and outbreaks at long-term care is to get everyone as immunized as we possibly can," said Gemmill. For that reason, he said that it would make sense to ensure that when more vaccines come in, priority is given to the second shot for residents prior to the next group of people, though he said another idea might be to give initial doses of vaccine to more people.

"I hope we have enough vaccine at that point in time ... that this will not be an issue," said Gemmill. "But yes, if we are faced with not that much vaccine, I would say that to protect those people in long-term care and to stop these outbreaks, which are ... extremely worrisome for the residents, extremely worrisome for the family, hugely stressful for the people who are looking after people in long-term care, for all of these reasons we have to get these things stopped."

## Public invited to 'Talk with the Doc' virtual town hall

Dr. Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit, is hosting the health unit's first 'Talk with the Doc' virtual town hall on Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 1 to 2 p.m.

During the online information session, Gemmill will provide updates on COVID-19 topics including local cases and transmission rates, local vaccine roll-out plans, and the health unit's pandemic response and related topics, as well as answer questions from those tuning in.

"I would like to reach as many people as possible and hear as many questions as possible, not only to help people know what's going on with this pandemic, but also so I can hear what the concerns are out there," said Gemmill while promoting the event during last week's press conference.

A second virtual town hall will be held Tuesday, March 2, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Gemmill said if the session was popular, it could be held on a regular basis. The town hall will also be uploaded after the live event to the health unit's YouTube channel for those who can't attend in real-time.



## Highland Wood's first

Nancy McElwain was the first Highland Wood long-term care resident to receive the Moderna vaccine on Feb. 8. Sue Long, Highland Wood nurse, administered the vaccination, while HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer looked on. /Submitted



## MINDEN SUBARU



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# points of view



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*Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir*

## Sometimes timing is everything

**D**YSART COUNCIL made a wise decision last week to delay getting into a messy discussion surrounding the township's ward boundary system.

On Feb. 9, during a committee of the whole meeting, the municipality's elected officials spent around 15 minutes debating the issue. In truth, it was five minutes of town clerk Malory Bishop providing some background information and analysis, and nearly ten minutes of Ward 4 Coun. John Smith trying to convince his fellow councillors to sanction a thorough review.

His reasoning was perfectly valid. More than that even, it was rock-solid, based upon fact and made perfect sense.

During the 2018 municipal election, Dysart had 13,526 eligible voters spread across its five wards. The problem being, that 55 per cent of that total was spread amongst Wards 2 and 4. This, Smith feels, points towards a massive issue that council should feel obligated to fix.

The crux of it is, with some of the community's wards containing double, or pretty close to double the number of residents as other wards, that each individual resident is not being represented equally at town hall. In other words, one person's vote does not have the same value or weight as that of the next person. A pretty big issue in a democratic society.

But here's where it gets interesting. Bishop explained that effective representation, as outlined by the Supreme Court of Canada, should not be determined solely by population. Instead, factors such as natural geography, community history, community interests and minority representation should also be considered.

Funny thing about our judicial system, though... It can be so bloody con-

tradictory, and open to interpretation at times.

Smith brought up a 1991 Supreme Court decision that he believes trumps Bishop's previous point. Basically, the motion states that a system that dilutes one citizen's vote against another's due to disproportionate ward or region populations couldn't, or perhaps more fittingly shouldn't, be seen as a true democracy.

While he himself didn't come right out and say that, Smith did everything but. As he finished, he seemed incredulous that no other councillor could, or would, see reason and agree with him.

I don't think it's that they didn't agree. It's that they, correctly, surmised that a global pandemic probably wasn't the right time to initiate one of the largest scale community-wide discussions Dysart will likely ever see.

An issue of this magnitude, with such far-reaching and long-lasting ramifications deserves to be played out publicly, in the most transparent way possible. That means public meetings, where local

residents can gather in-person to talk, ask questions and debate things properly.

In my mind, the words 'ward boundary review' should be front and centre on one of the first council agendas post-COVID-19 – whether that's a month from now, this summer or, God help us, this time next year.

Smith deserves credit for bringing this issue to the fore and making his case, even when it was clear his motion was doomed to fail. It wouldn't do to have a council that simply scratched each other's backs and agreed on everything together. Hearty debate and discussion are a key component of the democratic process.

But, as Coun. Smith likely learned last week, sometimes timing is everything.



mike  
baker

## Editorial



Winter shadows

by Darren Lum

## Hard workin' hands

**I** STEPPED OUT of the shower the other day and my husband had put some music on in the kitchen while he was cooking. A song was playing that I haven't listened to in almost a year. It's called Hard Workin' Hands by Dave Gunning.

"If you want to know the kind of man I am, take a look at my hard workin' hands."

I immediately went to another place and time in my life. I was remembering the men (and women) who participated in my "yoga for builders" class for more than 10 years. I would often play this song at the end of the class when the students were relaxing.

I also played another song by the same artist - These Hands. In this song Dave sings "What shall I do with these hands of mine... some hands can stop

a life from dying, some hands comfort a baby crying..." I played these songs as a tribute and recognition of the power of their hands and the work they created and the homes they built.

Every week I witnessed these builders working on their flexibility, core strength and balance so they could do their good work with their hands. I was so in awe of them showing up week after week and participating in the yoga, the meditation, sometimes qigong, the relaxation and yes sometimes we even sang. We laughed a lot and always had great conversations. I always joked that I was going to take a class picture and submit it to the Yoga Journal for its' cover. Haliburton builders on the cover of that magazine would really make me

smile!

This is one part of my job that I really miss in COVID. Last summer my husband and I, and my parents, made the decision to build a small addition onto our house that my parents will move into. The universe conspired to help us, and our favourite builder, who has done work on our house before, said his crew could do our build. Work began in November and every day,

every step of the way I have been so appreciative of the "hard workin' hands". I am not exaggerating when I say that every person (laying the pad, foundation, sewage, framing, wiring, insulation, dry walling, heating, flooring, plumbing, painting) has been kind, positive and has done an excellent job.

I feel like the addition is full of good vibes. One image I will always remember is in December when the roofers were working and they had Christmas tunes cranked all day. Often times I've heard the builders singing to their radio or chit chatting to each other as they get things done. We could not be more appreciative of all of it. My parents will move into a beautiful new space that is the result of so much hard work.

To everyone who has worked on this space, thank you. My parents will love it.

To all builders I hope you are taking good care of yourselves and keeping your body strong and resilient so you can continue to do your good work in our county! Thank you.

Tales from  
the great



lynda  
shadbolt

## Green meadow

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# points of view

## On the right track

**T**HE OTHER day it occurred to me that should I ever write the great Canadian pandemic novel, it will probably be called "My Life in Trackpants."

I envision it being the stirring tale of a man, who has for all intents and purposes, given up on any semblance of presentability – so much so that he doesn't even accessorize with camouflage anymore.

I will probably begin this opus with: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times – the former because I could walk around all day in comfort wearing trackpants; the latter because after a while I could not imagine life any other way..."

Like all great novels, it will be unreadable. So here are the Coles Notes.

I'm imagining a tale set in these dark times when the glorious bonfires of hope have faded to the stubborn flicker held by the last candle on an out of breath middle-aged man's birthday cake, and people – fine and decent people – have resorted to spending all their waking hours finding solace, warmth and comfort in an old set of trackpants.

Yet one day, our protagonist, a short, distinguished, handsome and thoughtful man of middle years, faces a conundrum. For the pandemic has caught him unprepared and he owns only one set of trackpants.

He does not see this as a problem until Chapter 7, tentatively titled, "Laundry Day."

It is at this point in the book where the man, lost and floundering without his trackpants, must face his inner demons and ponder life as it once was – before people let themselves go.

"Why?!" he screams, while shaking a fist to the heavens. "Why, did I not launder these trackpants in the evening?"

Without pants and any meaningful answers, yet needing to go outside of the house to gather mail and snacks, he turns towards the jeans he once wore – and, in a moment of clarity, asks for forgiveness. Following this, in an act born of sheer desperation, he decides to don those old jeans once again.

Chapter 8, entitled, "I shouldn't have washed them in hot water" is a masterpiece that recounts the many stages of denial. Our hero knows that his overly snug jeans are probably not the culprit, yet the truth is too painful to concede. So, after yet another snack, he convinces himself that his jeans have shrunk.

The paragraph when he finally lies on the bed and wins his battle with button and zipper is difficult to read, but it is brutally honest and, frankly, brilliant in its depiction of man's inhumanity to man.

It makes that bittersweet moment when he reignites his love affair with those newly laundered trackpants all the sweeter too.

"Hey," he says, when they meet once again in the laundry room.

"Hey," the trackpants reply. (By now, lockdown is taking its toll and our hero has conversations with everything.)

"You complete me," he says as he dons those trackpants once again.

There is redemption. For this time there is no shame. He accepts that those trackpants give comfort and asks for nothing in return.

In a moment of clarity, he also comes to realize that if he wears a mask and a hoodie, no one will ever know it is he who has given up.

So, he steps out in public and looks around from beneath his hoodie and sees there are no jeans or slacks or skirts or chinos in sight – only trackpants and people who have left their shrunken jeans at home.

That's when he realizes, even in the midst of the worst pandemic in memory there is a ray of hope. For everyone is smiling under those masks.



steve  
galea

## Loon Tales



## pic of the past

**L**ogging has always been an important part of the local economy, especially earlier this century when it provided winter employment for farmers and other workers. In the photo above, a group of lumbermen pose proudly with their two teams and loads of logs cut near West Guilford. This photo, taken in the winter of 1923-24, is from an original loaned by Carrie Drysdale to the Minden Hills Museum.

## letters to the editor

## A conversation between lawyers

To the Editor,

Jim: Hey Joe, I understand you have a new job?

Joe: Yes – I applied to a position with a county and was successful.

Jim: What is it like?

Joe: Well, I have a new office with a secretary. My name is on the door, and I work hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a good lunch break. I get a great salary, vacation, guaranteed annual increase, pension, broad health coverage, no practice insurance to pay, no rent, no employees, and membership fees are paid by my employer, plus many other benefits.

Jim: Lucky, but how did you qualify? I thought your specialty was the study of the legal system of the Roman Empire?

Joe: You're right. But I am also a member of the bar.

Jim: So what do you do about questions or problems that arise outside your area of expertise?

Joe: Well, I contact lawyers that have a specialty in that area of practice.

Jim: But don't they charge fees?

Joe: Yes, but I bounce the problem off them and they give us a bill.

Jim: What if it is a more difficult issue?

Joe: Well then they are engaged and given a retainer.

Jim: What if the problem is ongoing?

Joe: Well, all is referred to them.

Jim: Are there not ongoing fees that accrue?

Joe: Of course there are.

Jim: So, you really are a coordinator?

Joe: Yes, but once it is set up then my secretary handles most of the work and compiles reports that I then submit to the board for their review and their decision on any proposed action.

Jim: Joe, is there a chance that you need an assistant who is a member of the bar?

This is a conversation that never took place, but I wonder if it would ever be part of the real world that so many people, it appears to me, do not live in.

David Bishop  
Haliburton resident

# WANTED

## Historical photos from around Haliburton County

*Preferably from before 1970*

Help revive our Pic of the Past section by sending in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office at 146 Highland Street or email them to [mike@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:mike@haliburtonpress.com) with dates and any other information.



# Gerry Hunnius, 'calm radical,' remembered for life of activism

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

After Christmas dinner this past December, Valerie Hunnius read the first chapter of a book to her children about the life of Gerry Hunnius - her husband. The pair - married for 57 years - had been working on it because a caregiver visiting Gerry in his final years had suggested that the lifelong activist capture his fascinating lifetime of stories on paper.

"It wasn't his idea," Valerie told the *Echo* of the book. "He never really focused on himself at all, during his life. He was always focusing on one campaign or another, getting something fixed - and so, all of his energy was looking away from himself. On the other hand, he had all of these interesting stories because he'd had such an interesting life."

Reading about the beginning of Gerry's life helped incorporate him into the Hunnius holiday celebration after the loss of the family patriarch at the age of 94 this past October, and continuing to write his story in full - though it might stay within the family - is helping Valerie, too.

"I'm resolving things," she said. "I'm resolving things that I've never bothered to articulate. It's a very, very helpful process in that sense ... It's an incredible process, it really is."

Within 24 hours of Gerry's passing, Valerie said she sat down to write his obituary - three, as it would turn out, of varying sizes and focus, sending them to friends to help them reminisce and aid in supporting the memory of him, ensuring Gerry's profoundly active life was chronicled.

Gerry was born Ferry Carl von Hunnius near Tallinn, Estonia, in 1926 and "lived across eras of social transformation," according to one of her tributes.

"As first-born son, he was being groomed to manage the estate, within the loving embrace of his grandmother—his father and mother having left Estonia for a more exciting life in Europe," it reads. "At 13 his extended family moved to occupied Poland under the good offices of Herr Hitler, in order to flee the impending Soviet occupation and its brutality. As a naval cadet in officer training, he escaped actual combat, but endured bombardments in Hamburg and the hospital city of Carlsbad. All this, while his father, Arthur was interned in a Nazi concentration camp for his active opposition to Hitler through brokering arms to Republican forces in Spain and arranging for Jews to escape on ships through Rotterdam. And at the same time, Gerry was 'adopted' by his Uncle Hans who was a member of the SS. All that before the age of 20."

After the war, Gerry escaped from an internment camp "in bright daylight," and bicycled through parts of Germany to locate his father.

"Like others, he lived by his wits, working farmers' fields for an egg and a straw bed in the barn, a far cry from minor aristocracy," wrote Valerie.

Through his father's pre-war connections, Gerry was able to work for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. Then in 1949, after being given a choice to come to Australia or Canada, Gerry chose Canada, working as a servant and gardener in Quebec, then as an orderly in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

"At this time, he dropped the 'von' from his name, as he did not want to be identified in Canada as heraldic or upper class," wrote Valerie.

He sold encyclopedias and adding machines, and managed an assembly of women workers for Charles E. Frosst, enrolling in evening classes at university to complete a degree in political economics over eight years at Sir George Williams University, now known as Concordia University. There, he formed with like-minded friends the Asian Studies Group,



Gerry Hunnius, a resident on Paudash Lake, died in October, after a long life of activism. Locally, he worked to protect the environment as president of the Paudash Lake Conservation Association, on the Citizens' Liaison Committee of the MNR in the development of sustainable forestry management plans and as chair of the Environment Committee of the Ontario Federation of Cottagers Associations. /Submitted photo

which Valerie said "began his first radical step in critical thinking and political activism."

"The group held lectures, spanning a broad range of political views and backgrounds," she wrote. "This was during the McCarthy era in the States (Canada was not immune) and by inviting the third secretary of the Soviet Embassy to speak, Gerry first came to the attention of the RCMP. The principal of the university vindicated the Asian Studies Group, but the die was cast."

"So began a life of political activism, ranging from anti-war activities and peace research, through worker solidarity campaigns introducing the concept of workers' control, through campaigns to promote conservation and protect the environment," said Valerie. "Gerry studied the Yugoslav experiment with workers' control in small enterprises. He was interested in collectives, cooperatives and some kibbutzim. The contradictions in modern industrialization caused by class interests pushed him to study the mechanisms through which oppression occurred, and which, over time stymied the long-term success of labour union contracts. He was keenly interested in Marx's concept of worker alienation but he never called himself a Marxist. Nor did he ever join a political party. His support for concepts such as Participatory Democracy and the Extra-Parliamentary Opposition were, in a good sense, left wing populism. A spur in the side of ordinary folk to get involved and yes, challenge the sclerosis of our antiquated parliamentary system."

Valerie said Gerry was happiest at the head of campaigns, helping to form the Combined Universities Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Montreal, working with the Canadian Campaign for the Control of Radiation Hazards, and as the Executive Secretary of the Canadian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - while studying for his MA in political science at the University of Toronto. He and Valerie met each other at the school in 1961, meeting for coffee after class.

"He then toured both East and West European countries for one year on behalf of the Canadian Peace Research Institute to initiate dialogue between social scientists on both side of the Iron Curtain, and formed an organization modelled on the Canadian Pugwash Movement of nuclear physicists opposed to nuclear war," wrote Valerie. "The International Peace Research Association was

formed in Holland in 1965. From there, he became the first General Secretary of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace, based in London, England. This organization brought together peace activists in 52 peace and anti-war organizations in 17 non-aligned countries, including Yugoslavia (in the Soviet sphere) ranging from Quaker organizations to those supporting non-violent direct action to achieve multilateral disarmament. The ICDP helped coordinate several international actions which helped bring a close to the war in Vietnam."

In 1968, Gerry returned to Canada after working as an international ambassador for the Company of Young Canadians, and took a study year in Washington, co-editing a book called *Workers' Control*.

Back in Toronto, he helped establish Praxis, which Valerie said was: "a non-ivory tower research institute which was mandated to promote community education and action as a component of its research into issues of poverty, housing, labour rights and democratic rights. Praxis was viewed with discomfort and disdain by establishment figures, and with the help of the right wing press, Gerry's file with the RCMP was again activated."

Gerry then became a member of the Faculty of the Social Science Department at Atkinson College, York University.

"Atkinson is an evening college for students who are involved in the work force during the day," wrote Valerie. "He encouraged all of his students to study the social relations within their own workplaces, to determine the means by which they can exert influence to increase the rights of employees and other social objectives: a very direct exercise in critical thinking and action."

In later years, Gerry and Valerie purchased a cottage on Paudash Lake, after driving through the area and finding it idyllic. The property made Gerry focus on the environmental movement in what is now known as Highlands East.

"He had been very much involved with labour issues, before he came here," Valerie told the *Echo*. "Once we bought the property here, and he began to get involved with the Paudash Lake Conservation Association, and understand some of the problems, then he became very active very quickly. He had new energy, he had a new focus, and he applied that focus to just about everything he was doing."

Gerry became chair of the Environment

Committee of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, and was president of the Paudash Lake Conservation Association for many years. He campaigned to successfully decommission local abandoned uranium mines, worked to oversee the designation of Paudash Lake's provincially significant wetland complexes and initiated a shoreland restoration project. He also brought forth a Paudash Lake plan to guide future development on the lake.

"He was always finding things he wanted to be involved in, things he was trying to make better, and the last 20 years of his life, he was really concentrating on environmental issues," said Valerie.

Gerry participated in the Lands for Life endeavour, which resulted in an increase in public land protection, from six per cent to 12 per cent of Ontario's crown land. He helped to found Environment Haliburton and became co-chair of the Citizens' Liaison Committee of the Ministry of Natural Resources, using his negotiation skills, research, ability to listen and compromise to reach agreement. Valerie said these skills and abilities helped him make great change happen.

"His best quality was his ability to work with people," she told the *Echo*. "He could work with people in non-profit organizations and government departments and so on and so forth. He got along with everybody. I never, ever, saw him in a dispute with anybody because he was very calm and rational. Even when he was losing ground in a discussion, he would go away, think about it and come back and re-engage and keep working on it. He wouldn't let it dissuade him. He would keep going. He would understand where the other party was coming from, and he was really good at persuading people."

Valerie said Gerry could work with people even when they had interests the exact opposite of his own, or when his way of thinking was in the minority.

"He was a calm person - I mean he was a radical, but he was a calm radical," she laughed. "He could find ways of working with people who had totally different goals in mind than he did, and he could be persuasive. He could bring them around to a point of view that they were just not paying any attention to whatsoever."

Highlands East councillor Susanne Partridge said she met Gerry through the Paudash Lake Conservation Association, while they were both living in downtown Toronto in the '80s.

"I would describe him as very principled, passionate about the environment and social justice," she said. "He seemed to have lots of energy - he was interested in so many things."

Partridge said Gerry has created more of an awareness of the natural environment in Highlands East, and how important it is, leaving an essential legacy.

"He really loved this area," said Valerie of his local contribution. "He had a mad passionate affair with this lake. He just adored it. That sounds like a trite answer in a way, but whenever he got involved in something, he gave it 120 per cent. That's kind of like the nature of movement work, to do that. You do something, and then you do something more and then there's always something more to do."

In his last decade, Gerry faced numerous challenges including COPD, becoming legally blind, loss of hearing, advanced dementia and mobility issues.

"The toll of dementia, as it spiked downward over the past two years was devastating but he maintained a positive attitude throughout, until the moment a week ago when he announced 'machine kaput'," reads an obituary written by Valerie. "He knew he was ready to go."

Gerry died on Oct. 23, 2020.

The lengthiest and most detailed obituary memorializing his life ends noting: "It has been a good and satisfying life. A life well spent. ... He was a good man."





Haliburton resident Linus Gervais plays hockey on a backyard rink made by his father, Mike. Mike said he's discovered using a torch is more effective than using water to eliminate the imperfections on his rink to smooth it out. /Submitted by Mike Gervais

# Canadian rites of passage for rink makers

*Highlands residents share advice for great skating ice*

**DARREN LUM**

*Staff Reporter*

There are few images more iconic than skating on a lake, surrounded by a blanket of snow, set against a stand of trees that stretches off to the horizon, or on a rink a few feet from home in the middle of a Canadian winter.

With the restrictions related to this time of the pandemic, outdoor rinks have taken on greater importance for not just the opportunity they present for physical activity and development, but as a method of escape for Highlands residents of all ages.

Talk to enough people, who have made their own ice skating pads, and it's clear everyone has their own tricks for success. Some will buy kits for a few hundred to a few thousand dollars and others will resort to ingenuity and experience from failures to successes guiding the way. The one thing that seems to drive everyone is family.

Long-time builder of skating pads Eric Edwards of Maple Lake has built backyard rinks and lake rinks ever since his adult son who now has four children, was a boy. From his experience, he believes timing is key to having success.

"I've been up here long enough to know that ice conditions aren't good until after the fifteenth and eighteenth of January," he said. "Nothing is safe."

He continues, "Even if you're building one in your backyard just the fluctuation [of temperatures] from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20 it's up and down like a yo-yo. Temperatures aren't constant. Most people who build rinks in their backyards put in the liners, which gives them a grace period, but it still thaws and freezes, thaws and freezes. And you just can't get a good hard surface. You want the ice pretty thick. What we got out here right now [on Maple Lake] I would say is eight to 10 underneath – good ice I got there," he said.

Specific to his lake, he said is to build a rink that is at least 15 yards

from shore, if possible.

There are times the ice on his lake can break away, he said.

"What happens is it breaks away from the shoreline and the water table rises, and as it rises then the amount of ice that is out on the lake the weight of that drops and you get an ice wall from your shoreline that comes up to a peak of about three feet. Then it just snaps. It comes up to a point and you have to climb over this ice wall to get on your ice surface," he said. "The same thing has happened in the middle of the lake when we get these ice walls that come up. It's just the weight of the water," he said.

He's had to build "ice bridges" to allow for passage from the shore to the rink.

He's happy about being on the lake when remembering the efforts he had to go through to build a rink in his backyard when living at his last residence across the lake, where there was less sun exposure.

Back then he used 50 gallon barrels, transported by his pickup truck, which he then used to flood the surface rather than using the water at his house to avoid draining his well.

Edwards said making a rink on the lake is easier.

Other than the fuel for the snowblower to clear the snow on the lake, he said there's not as much resources, such as water and hydro, required.

Part of his preparation on the lake is he levels the ice surface first, followed by using his homemade mini-Zamboni, which employs a beer cooler to hold the water, set on a platform with heavy duty caster wheels, which were re-purposed from moving snowmobiles around a shop.

At the back, below the drain for the cooler is a towel that trails behind the contraption to smooth the surface down.

One piece of advice, he said, is to be cognizant of when to clear the snow from the ice and when not to.

"Your powdered snow on top of ice will insulate it and maintain that



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# The reward of making a rink is being able to share it

from page 9

glaze as long as you don't get a warm day. You leave it. You don't shovel your rink everyday. If the temperatures warm up, you got to get the snow off. The day you get the snow off let the sun dry out the surface and then just do a quick Zamboni on it and you're good to go," he said. He laughs about how anyone with a

full time job should probably avoid making rinks, but he loves doing it and enjoys the process and the work in maintaining it. The rink really is a communal thing to share, whether it's for his four grandchildren or for his neighbours. "That's the reward. You have something people can use. I let other people use it. It's satisfaction for me that I've

gone out," he said. "You haven't shovelled your driveway, but you're out shovelling your rink. Does that make sense?" Haliburton's Mike Gervais has been making a rink for his school aged children for three years, but rather than water he learned to employ a concentrated heat to smooth out his rink surface. He remembers how his first year he didn't really do anything.

"We had a freeze-thaw event that created the ice rink for us and then I just sort of maintained it from there, but not having access to indoor water, I burst a pipe. And then the next year, I did it with a tarp, but didn't buy a thick enough tarp and we put a hole in it. I had to get water out again and burst the other pipe. This year I built a proper frame for it and made sure it was level just out of two four-by-fours and then I bought an eight millimetre thick tarp that was designed for ice rinks. Because I don't have access to water I didn't want to burst another pipe so I sort of decided I would buy a propane torch. So what I do is take this propane torch and skim the surface with the torch. It creates enough water to fill in all the grooves from the skates. We don't have to worry about water again," he said.

He warns anyone making a rink to not use an outside tap when the temperature drops below negative 10 Celsius. "I learned that the hard way," he said.

Others who can access water from inside the house don't run the risk of a burst pipe.

Gervais remembers the torch idea came from having a conversation at the arena with Haliburton's Brad Park, who also has a backyard rink. The conservation revolved around resolving the imperfections of his 18 x 18 rink that were caused by a freezing rain event, which led to the idea to use a heat a source to melt down the imperfections.

He adds with a torch it only takes a day to smooth out the imperfections.

Close to 20 years ago, before his career in education, Gervais worked part-time at the home of the Windsor Spitfires, the Windsor Arena where he operated the Zamboni. He said the torch helps to mimic the smoothing technique of an ice clearing machine.

"That's what the torch does for you. It gives you the warm water. That's just my little hack. I'm sure other people do it too. Didn't find that anywhere," he said.

It helps, he said, to have everything in place for the rink before the snow comes, which includes the eight millimetre tarp base and the surrounding boards.

"Some people will pack down the snow and do different things like that. But because I did it before the snow came it was really easy to work with," he said.

From his online research, he learned to "buy a tarp that is four feet wider and four feet longer at the minimum than the dimensions of your rink. That's where I made the mistakes in the past too. You need the big overhang because then you can tuck it in and complete those nice edges. If you buy a tarp with the exact dimensions of your rink it doesn't work because you don't have the overhang to create that," he said.

He encourages everyone to make a rink.

"If you have a flat space it's not that hard and it's great. This only cost with lumber and a tarp ... under \$150 and we'll be able to reuse the lumber," he said.

"I say go for it," he said.

Gervais passed on his backyard rink knowledge, including using a torch to neighbour and first time ice rink builder, Adam Brind, who was also a father that did it for his two children, a four-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter. Although he wishes his children used

the skating rink more this year, he hasn't been discouraged by that or the time he's invested about doing it again next year.

"I would do it again for sure. It's been fun and the kids have been able to keep up with their skating. My son was learning how to play hockey so we've been shooting the puck around. It's just been nice to have. It's just another winter activity. I mean we really got into cross country skiing this winter because there's not a lot to do. We've been trying to get them outside as much as possible," he said.

His advice to other new ice makers is to be prepared for a lot of work and to make sure to include lights as part of the setup.

"The night skating is a lot fun, right? That's half the day now. The winter time it gets dark at 4:30 or 5 [p.m.] so it's fun to go out there at night to shoot the puck around," he said.

When asked about comparing his work life with his first foray into ice making, he said things like building a tree house or making a rink are welcomed as an escape to work with his hands.

"That's my yoga. When I come home for the weekends from working all week I just like to keep my hands busy and my mind free," he said.

Like Edwards, Mike Hamilton is at home with his rink setup on a lake, which is steps from his house overlooking Mountain Lake.

Although bringing in large volumes of water isn't necessary on a lake like a backyard rink, there is considerable time still invested.

"After working nine hour days I'd go out and spend two hours after work to get it good and then you wake up the next morning it's covered in snow again. It's a reset there almost every day after a while," he said. "That's the hardest thing you fight. The balance."

The earliest he's had a rink in his nine years of making one was early-December, he said.

He remembers seeing water out in the middle of the lake when he had a rink ready, which was located close to shore where it is only a foot deep. A season can last up to five months, ending at the end of March, he adds.

The perfect conditions for a flooding of the rink, he said, is when the temperature is a little below freezing for the start of the flood and then negative 10 after during the night. However, a snowfall overnight though can undo his efforts.

"It almost makes it like a curling rink where it makes a rough surface," he said.

Hamilton said it's a tricky balance to make ice like you'd find in an arena because when it's too cold the water from the flood will freeze too quickly to be smooth.

He's learned to not flood the ice too much.

"A lot of people flood them like too much. When it freezes and then some of the water dissipates through the snowbanks and stuff like that you have air pockets under the ice so the right amount of water is key for certain conditions for sure," he said.

The game changers for him in achieving smooth ice is owed to a couple of things.

One is the powered sidewalk sweeper he bought three winters ago – a weed wacker with a brush on it.

It's proven to be far more effective than a shovel at removing all the snow from the ice. He admits the sweeper was a high cost item, but it has paid off in terms of eliminating the creation of slush during the flooding if there is any snow left on the surface.

The other is the recently made Ham-Boni – a take off of the first three letters

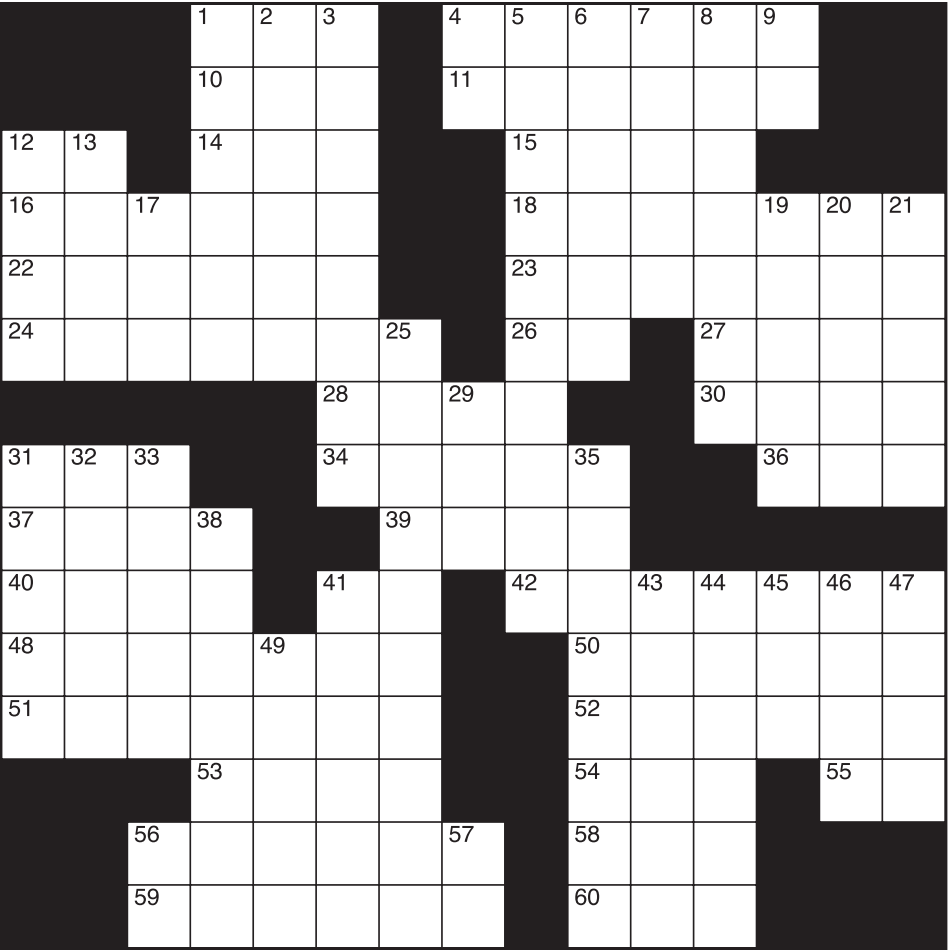
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*"Out Standing In My Field"*





# Embracing winter with outdoor ice skating in the open air

from page 10

of Mike's surname and the last four letters of the Zamboni. Hamilton said he was inspired from an online research to build it. He re-purposed a barrel to hold the hot water, which rests on a garden cart that has the ability to hold 800 pounds. Attached to the barrel is a hose, connected to a shammy that trails behind to smooth the ice as the water drains out. He said the Ham-Boni can complete two floods until it is empty.

With heavy volumes of snow, he'll use a snowblower and then finish clearing the surface with the sweeper and Ham-Boni for floodings, and for floodings requiring more water will use a pump.

Hamilton said his ice surface area has remained close to the 50 x 25 feet of what he started with nine years ago. He has added elevated lights on two by fours staked in the ice. What's helped this year are the compacted snowbanks. To his chagrin, his children ran their snowmobiles up and over the snowbanks. However he's learned these actions helped to compress the snowbanks into solid retaining walls so when he floods the rink the water stays contained instead of leaking out.

He adds his children have actively helped him with the rink over the years.

For all the effort and time Hamilton doesn't regret any of the investment he's put in for something that everyone enjoys, whether it's his children, neighbours, his wife or himself.

"It's a lot of work. I do it for the kids to use and I do it for the exercise for myself as well. It's nice to be outside in the fresh air too because my normal job I'm not outside as much as I'd like to be obviously," he said. "I like the outdoors. I like being outside. The cold doesn't bother me."

He adds he's worked hard to be able to



have a home on the lake.

It just makes sense to embrace all the outdoor opportunities it affords such as snowmobiling, ice fishing, Nordic skiing and skating.

Hamilton's friend Brad Park doesn't have the expansive quality of the lake, but still derives pleasure from being able to provide an outlet for his children.

Park said his backyard rink started as an 8 x 10 area five years when the children were learning how to skate. He said his ice surface has grown more and more and his efficiency every year has improved.

"As they get older it just seems to get bigger and bigger every year," he said.

He adds the rink is 30 x 40 now, which is as large as it will ever be.

Park expresses frustration with how fluctuating temperatures can hamper pro-



Above, Mike Hamilton and his daughter Harper stand with the Ham-boni, which is used to create a smooth surface to the family ice rink.

Left, Harper and Hunter Hamilton stand on the rink on Mountain Lake, located in front of their home. It's one of many winter activities they get to enjoy living by the lake, which is part of Mike's motivation to having a rink. /Submitted by Cheryl Hamilton

gress.

"Four of five days to make a rink turns into like two weeks," he said. "It goes from minus 23 [Celsius] and then two days later it's plus 3 [Celsius] so it's hard to get it going. Once you get it going and you have a base you're good."

He said the ideal temperature range is negative four to minus eight to flood for a smooth surface.

"It seems to work out good. Even cold water works out just fine," he said. "Give it a good scrape and a shovel and then lay the water to it so it turns out really good. We don't use hot water. We just use cold water."

His water source is his outside tap, but he makes sure to only flood for twenty minutes at a time with two hour intervals to avoid running his well dry.

If he could start again with the knowledge he has acquired making ice for the past five years, he would tell himself to not start making ice too early in the season. He adds it's important to look at the weather forecast.

"Or you're going to throw all your work out the window," he said.

The ideal, he said, is for two weeks of at least negative five to negative 10.

During the pandemic, the children are out on the ice 80 per cent more than other years, he said.

"This year it's the saving grace, right? When school was out there wasn't a whole lot to do so [they] go out to the rink even if it's for only a half an hour, two or three times a day or 40 minutes. It kills a lot of time," he said.

## Township staffer talks diversity, inclusion and gender neutrality

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There was some discussion last week about Dysart et al potentially implementing some new "diversity and inclusion" measures in the future.

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's recreation coordinator, filled council in on the numerous training sessions she has participated in over the past year focusing on the importance of creating an open and accepting environment for all community residents.

"In recent years, there has been a lot of

talk about diversity, inclusion and accessibility," Mueller told council. "The trend right now is to further promote diversity and inclusion, and to take away gender options altogether, or have more than 'male or female' options for people to choose from."

Mueller said some other terminology to consider adopting across community programs, and on municipal documentation could include 'non-binary', or 'prefer not to say'.

She also brought up the idea of Dysart including gender-neutral washrooms in any new municipal builds in the future. Mayor Andrea Roberts pointed out there

are gender-neutral washrooms included in the new downtown visitor centre, slated to open this summer.

The training has been provided to interested parties free of charge by the Canadian LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

"The idea here is just trying to be more forward thinking and inclusive," Mueller stated. "These sessions have opened my eyes to so many things that I even fell fault to, that I wasn't really aware of. Now I want to be more aware, and help create that inclusivity."

Despite that, Mueller admitted there can be difficulties.

During one of the sessions, she

explained how she had been given a scenario that would likely be a "tricky" one to resolve.

"We were told if somebody was complaining that there's a man in a women's washroom, but then you go in and [discover] it's somebody who maybe looks like a man, but is using the washroom as a woman, you should let it go and don't draw attention to the situation," Mueller said.

"It's a tricky one," she admitted.

Council elected to simply receive Mueller's presentation for information purposes, meaning there would be no immediate changes forthcoming.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	2	4	0	52	50	2	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	43	119	1	503	422	25	38	13
Northumberland	24	86	2	402	369	10	9	0
Total***	69	236	3	957	841	38	47	13

### Two unresolved cases in Haliburton County

As of Feb. 12, Haliburton County had two current cases of unresolved COVID-19 and four current high-risk contacts, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit. For more information visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca/Screenshot from HKPRDHU website>

## County council passes 2021 budget

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County councillors passed the 2021 budget during a Feb. 10 meeting, the final budget containing a tax increase of 3.84 per cent.

Councillors had first reviewed the budget during a Jan. 11 meeting. Since then, it was learned the county's insurance costs would be higher than had been budgeted for the year, however, that was offset by increased property assessment values, received from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. The 2021 budget includes the addition

of an economic development officer on county staff, although that position will be funded through Safe Restart funding from the provincial government.

"It happened in a timely fashion and certainly a comfortable number in a COVID year to move forward," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. "So, I do not have any reservations."

"I think it's a good, modest increase," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Daniels. "It's my fear that next year and the years following we're going to see some pretty severe impacts from upper levels of government, and we will not be able to continue at this rate, sadly."









## Canadian Ski Marathon

Eagle Lake resident Tina Koskelo skis beside friend Jennifer Paton, who were both participating in the virtual edition of the Canadian Ski Marathon on Saturday at Moosewoods in Eagle Lake. Known as the oldest Nordic ski tour in North America at 55 years old, the CSM opened it's event up this year with a virtual edition for the first time in its history because of the pandemic, enabling Nordic skiers to complete their chosen category anywhere they were such as several Highlands' residents. The event is open to skiers, who have the option to ski from 12 kilometres up to 100 kilometres over two days to participate from Feb. 6 to March 7. See [skimarathon.ca](http://skimarathon.ca) for more information. /DARREN LUM Staff



Eagle Lake resident Tina Koskelo shows her bib for the bronze Coureur des Bois category



Carnarvon resident Joleen Thomas smiles as she resumes her attempt at completing the 100 kilometres over two days for the highest level gold Coureur des Bois category (where participants must carry a backpack with sleeping gear) during the virtual edition of the Canadian Ski Marathon on Saturday at Moosewoods in Eagle Lake.



Carnarvon resident Joleen Thomas skis in the virtual edition of the Canadian Ski Marathon, trailing behind Eagle Residents Peter Bowers, who was not participating, but was out with his wife, Tina Koskelo, who was participating



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## Haliburton County Council!

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to thank the Haliburton County Council for taking the initiative to redirect the proposed shoreline bylaw to an independent third party to review and oversee. We look forward to being part of the solution!

## Lakefront Property Owners,

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has spent the last few weeks bringing forward a few facts regarding the proposed Shoreline By-law that the County of Haliburton is attempting to implement. The goal of our media campaign is to bring awareness of the By-law to the waterfront property owners in the County.

The HCHBA is urging you to contact your municipal elected officials, Lake Association Executive as well as your M.P. and M.P.P. to voice your concerns and to ask questions. We also encourage you to visit the HCHBA website ([www.hchba.ca/resources](http://www.hchba.ca/resources)) where we have posted information relating to the proposed Shoreline Preservation By-law. We ask you to speak to your neighbours about their thoughts and we encourage you to write our local newspapers with your concerns.

The 30-metre setback from high-water mark is problematic. The high-water mark can be hard to identify and with the constant fluctuations within our local lakes it can be ever changing due to the erosion that these fluctuations cause. A more reasonable setback (5 metres) with high quality vegetation required for all lakefront properties would be a great start.

The process of understanding what projects require a permit and which ones do not needs to be clear, concise and easy for the homeowner or contractor to understand.

Will this bylaw require an Environmental Impact Studies or an Archaeological Assessment?

Will permits be required for road maintenance on private roads within the 30 m highwater mark?

Will there be an appeal process if a permit is denied?

The County of Haliburton needs to make a commitment to invest time and resources towards conducting their own independent research into other factors that could lead to the potential deterioration in the health of our local water bodies. Where is the evidence that provoked this bylaw to be created?

If this bylaw gets passed as is and no more development is done on the shoreline, will they be healthy?

***If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at [www.hchba.ca](http://www.hchba.ca)***



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## 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### Physiotherapist

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has an exciting, permanent opportunity available as a member of the Long Term Care home teams that serve a substantial area surrounding both Haliburton and Minden. HHHS includes LTC homes in both Minden (Hyland Crest) and Haliburton (Hyland Wood).

This casual physiotherapist will report to and work in collaboration with the LTC home, Directors of Care. The Physiotherapist helps our residents reach optimal function by developing, implementing and supporting established treatment programs. He supervises our Physiotherapy Aides and provides oversight to them, providing guidance and counseling on therapeutic issues. Changes or progressions in treatment are made based on ongoing assessments and evaluation.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful candidate will possess a degree/diploma in Physiotherapy and be registered with the Board of Directors of Physiotherapy to practice in Ontario. The preferred candidate will have working knowledge of rehabilitation, orthopedics, and neurology. Membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association is recommended. Current CPR certification is also a requirement. Two to four years of experience in Long Term Care and/or Acute Care settings is preferred.

**SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RESUME TO:** Human Resources  
Haliburton Highlands Health Services  
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
E-mail: [hr@hhhs.ca](mailto:hr@hhhs.ca)  
Fax: 705-457-4609

**PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER:** 2021 - 05

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.



### Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Temporary Full-Time and Temporary Part-Time staff for the noted classifications below.

**RN's and RPN's** are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The **Registered Nurse** earns \$33.56/hr - \$48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

**Registered Practical Nurses** earn \$30.58 - \$31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

**Personnel Support Workers** earn \$22.25- \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,  
The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or  
The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and  
Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The **Caregiver Support Aide** earns \$18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

**Observers/screeners** earn \$14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsible for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit you application and resume to:  
Human Resources  
Haliburton Highlands Health Services  
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
E-mail: [hr@hhhs.ca](mailto:hr@hhhs.ca)  
Fax: 705-457-4609



### Cleaning Services Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2021) Starting at \$14.25/hr

We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets.

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

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**Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)**  
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If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at [matt@onondagacamp.com](mailto:matt@onondagacamp.com). Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

## 560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

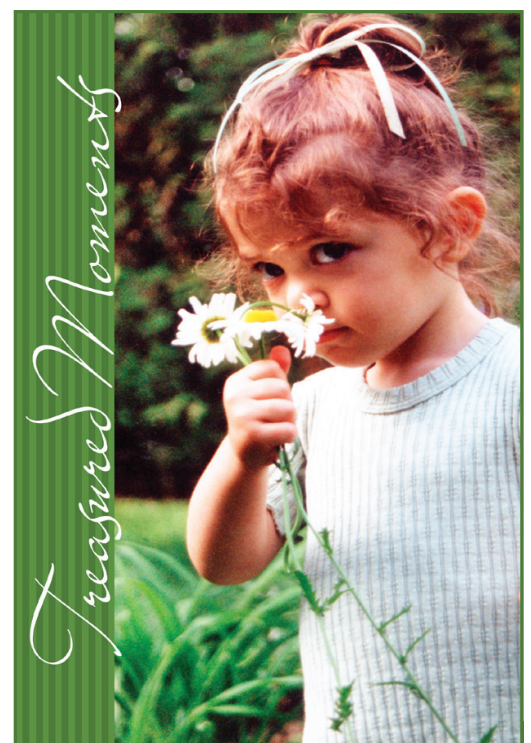
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*In Loving Memory of*  
**Craig Faulkner Windsor**

On February 4, 2021 we lost a great man. Craig (aka the Duke, Curly, Pops, Pa), peacefully listening to Patsy Cline, with family by his side, he danced his way to his next adventure. Wishing him "Sweet Dreams".

Craig was a dear friend, an amazing son, father, uncle and grandpa. He charmed all those who crossed his path. He cherished the time he had with those he met in his many journeys and was always excited to see and spend time with new and old friends. He met each day with a smile and had a genuine love for everyone. He enjoyed life to the fullest.

The son of Maurice and Blanche Windsor, loving brother of Garth & Helen, Phyllis & Don. Amazing father to Rob, Mike & Shelly, Colin and Cindy & Rob. Awesome Grampa of Elladee & Jesse, Briar, Noah, Jadyn and Joshua. Special family to Lew & Laurel, Carole & Bill, Larry & Lisa and Dean. Loving uncle to his many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers Craig would appreciate donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0. Due to current restrictions, a date for Craig's celebration of life has not been set.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



**ROBERT JOHN COLWELL**  
Age 92 years  
Retired from Consumers Gas  
(Veteran RAF and RCAF and member of Branch 178 Royal Canadian Legion)

*Passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday February 10, 2021*

Beloved husband of the late Ann Colwell. Dear father of David & Jacquelin and John & Mary. Loving grandfather of Melissa (Jacob), Clayton and Kristine (Gab). Dear great-grandfather of Hailey.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will be held at a later date when restrictions are lifted. Memorial Donations may be made to Bowmanville Hospital Foundation through **NORTHCUTT ELLIOTT FUNERAL HOME**, 53 Division St. Bowmanville, with whom the arrangements have been entrusted. Online condolences may be made at:

**www.northcuttelliott.com**



# THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

## AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 102 No. 21 Wednesday, February 22, 1984 'Voice of the Highlands' 16 Pages 35 cents

### Inside the Echo



Skating carnival a hit with parents  
See page 7



Carnival days in Haliburton  
See pages 8,9



Local cubs get awards  
See pages 11

### Midget series left hanging after protest

Haliburton's OMHA Midget hockey team has had its playoff series with Powassan suspended by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association in the wake of a protest over the team's use of four players from Minden. While official notification of the protest and the OMHA's decision have not been received by local hockey officials, Powassan failed to show up for a scheduled game in Haliburton on Saturday night, apparently on instructions from the provincial hockey association.

Coach Gary McKnight said the first indication of a problem came last Saturday morning, when Haliburton OMHA representative Len Salvatori got a telephone call saying someone had protested Haliburton's use of Minden players. Indications were that the local team would have to move up to category 'C' from its present 'DD' designation. And in the meantime, Powassan was told not to make the trip to Haliburton, despite the fact that Haliburton had twice travelled to Powassan in the best three out of five series.

McKnight said the team has used four Minden players all year, and that the OMHA has been aware of the situation since the beginning of the season.

"We weren't trying to hide anything," he commented in an interview Monday.

McKnight said he would not have been upset if at the beginning of the season the league had ruled that Haliburton would have to compete in a higher category. But he said he is unhappy with the ruling so late in the scheduling, particularly since the local minor hockey association has spent money to send the team to Humphrey and Powassan in past season play.

Bob MacNaull, president of Haliburton Minor Hockey, said Tuesday that the OMHA acted on the protest without asking for any input or explanation from Haliburton.

"At this point it doesn't appear that (league officials) followed the correct procedure" in dealing with

Please turn to Page 3



Grant Clement, left, and Buck Cowan, right, were a strong team in the cross cut saw competition during the Haliburton Winter Carnival on Saturday. Helping to steady the log are event chairman John

Bruce and Ken McKnight. A total of eleven competitors took part in the competition.

### Carnival a hit despite rain

It wasn't exactly ideal weather for a winter carnival over the weekend, with melting snow, rain and thick fog, but that didn't stop members of the Haliburton Rotary Club from going ahead with most of the events they had been planning for months. And despite conditions, the carnival turned out to be a success, providing plenty of fun and friendly competition at a number of venues. First on the agenda was snow sculpture judging. The wet snow

was ideal for the task, although sculptures didn't hold their carefully moulded contours for long. Winner in the individual category was Bob Pickard of Riverside Drive in Haliburton. Winner in the group category was the Grade 4A class of Dennis Baker at HHSES.

The Queen of the Carnival was crowned at a teen dance on Friday night, and the honour went to Chantal LaRue. Runners up and princesses for the duration of the

weekend were Lianne Whitfield and Maria Rosenberg. Beaverton outscored Haliburton 8-4.

Saturday's pancake breakfast was well attended, despite that fact that deteriorating weather had kept many visitors from making the drive to the Highlands. Other events throughout the day on Saturday as well, with organizers hoping for were the annual carnical bonspiel, more wintry conditions this coming and a one day men's hockey tournament. In the consolation round Peterborough Oldtimers defeated Minden 4-3, and in the

Please turn to Page 8

### Cubs honour Len Salvatori

#### Thirty years of leading group draws praise, admiration

Thirty years is a long time to spend at any job, but when the job is the voluntary one of running a Cub pack, the achievement is especially noteworthy. On Monday night at the annual father and son banquet, local Beavers, Cubs, parents and supporters of the scouting movement had occasion to say 'thank you' to Len Salvatori, who stepped down from leading Pack 'A' this fall after three decades of service.

Bruce McKay, president of Legion branch 129, which sponsors the local scouting movement, said it was "an honour" to present Salvatori with a plaque in recognition of his dedication to the young people of the community.

In accepting the award, Salvatori paid tribute to the local Legion, which he said "has always been a great supporter of the boys." He described Haliburton as "a great community", and said that over the years the local scouting movement has been dedicated to "grooming boys to become good citizens."

Salvatori also paid tribute to others who had helped him throughout his tenure as leader of Pack 'A', Haliburton's first, which was formed in 1954. In particular, he thanked Walter Webb, whom he described as "my sidekick since the beginning" and "a great gentleman, a great supporter of young people."

Thanks were also due to the

group committee, Salvatori said, and in particular to Dennis Baker, "for working to keep the group committee alive."

The presentation to Len Salvatori was the highlight of the banquet, which opened with words from Bruce McKay, who noted that the local Legion is "very proud to support the Cubs and Scouts of Haliburton District."

Colin Sisson proposed a toast to the fathers, and Lynn Craigmyle responded on behalf of parents.

"Society is much better" for having Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and many other local organizations which focus on youth. In conclusion, he presented group committee chairman Dennis Baker with a Canadian flag on behalf of the government.

Awards were then presented to a number of boys. The Beavers were given a pennant carrying the Beaver motto 'Sharing'.

Derek Wilson was named Cub of the year for Pack 'A'. Mike Ellis, a first year Cub, was named Cub of

### Service awards presented

Rev. John Smith of Haliburton said the Grace before a roast beef dinner was served by members of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary.

Head table guests included Deeno Pearsell of the group committee, John Smith, MP Bill Scott, Bruce McKay, Dennis Baker, who acted as master of ceremonies, Len Salvatori, Don Kennedy, provincial field executive for the Boy Scouts, Walter Webb, and Terry Barnum.

Following the meal Bill Scott spoke briefly, praising the role of parents in the community and urging young people not to take for granted the time parents devote to scouting and other community oriented activities. He noted that

the year for Pack 'B'.

Attendance awards for Pack 'A' went to Brett Jackson and Mark Brohm. Pack 'B' attendance awards were presented to George and Greg Sharp, and to Jamie Teatro.

Awards for the best decorated baskets on Apple Day went to Mike Morrison, Steve Smith, Colin Sisson, Peter Buckley and Casper Brohm.

Don Kennedy then presented long service awards to Len Salvatori, Terry Barnum, Howard Roberts (who was unable to attend) and Dennis Baker.

A 10 year award went to Baker, and a 15 year award to Baker.

Please turn to Page 11



Len Salvatori addresses the Father and Son Banquet

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